

Express Mail Label No. EL209599882US
U.S. National Phase Entry of PCT/EP00/09882
"Interface Module for a Local Data Network"
Filed: 18 January 2002
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Version with markings to show changes made

In the specification

Kindly replace the last paragraph on page 18 continuing onto page 19 as follows:

A first alloy system has the composition $\text{Co}_a(\text{Fe}_{1-c}\text{Mn}_c)_b\text{Ni}_d\text{M}_e\text{Si}_x\text{B}_y\text{C}_z$, with M indicating one or more elements from the group Nb, Mo, Ta, Cr, W, Ge, and/or P and $a+b+d+e+x+y+z = 100$, with

Co: $a = 40 - 82 \text{ at\%}$, preferably $55 < a < 72 \text{ at\%}$,

Fe+Mn: $b = 3 - 10 \text{ at\%}$,

Mn/Fe: $c = 0 - 1$, preferably $[x]c < 0.5$,

Ni: $d = 0 - 30 \text{ at\%}$, preferably $d < 20 \text{ at\%}$,

M: $e = 0 - 5 \text{ at\%}$, preferably $e < 3 \text{ at\%}$,

Si: $x = 0 - 18 \text{ at\%}$, preferably $x > 1 \text{ at\%}$,

B: $y = 8 - 26 \text{ at\%}$, preferably $8 - 20 \text{ at\%}$,

C: $z = 0 - 3 \text{ at\%}$,

$15 < e+x+y+z < 30$, preferably $20 < e+x+y+z < 30$.

In the claims

1. (Amended) An [I]interface module for local data networks having an inductive component [(7)] used as a transformer for coupling interface circuits to a data line used to connect computers, with the inductive component having a magnetic core [(9)] and multiple windings applied to the core, [characterized in that] wherein the inductive component [(7)]

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used as a transformer has a magnetic core [(9)] made of an amorphous or nanocrystalline alloy with a permeability $\mu > 15,000$ and the number of turns of the windings is between 5 and 25.

2. (Amended) The [I] interface module according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the amorphous or nanocrystalline alloy has a permeability $\mu > 30,000$.

3. (Amended) The [I] interface module according to claim 1 [or 2], [characterized in that] wherein the alloy has the composition $\text{Co}_a(\text{Fe}_{1-c}\text{Mn})_b\text{Ni}_d\text{M}_e\text{Si}_x\text{B}_y\text{C}_z$, with M indicating one or more elements from the group Nb, Mo, Ta, Cr, W, Ge, and/or P and $a+b+d+e+x+y+z = 100$, with

Co $a = 40 - 82 \text{ at\%}$

Fe+Mn $b = 3 - 10 \text{ at\%}$

Mn/Fe $c = 0 - 1$

Ni $d = 0 - 30 \text{ at\%}$

M $e = 0 - 5 \text{ at\%}$

Si $x = 0 - 17 \text{ at\%}$

B $y = 8 - 26 \text{ at\%}$

C $z = 0 - 3 \text{ at\%}$

and $15 \text{ at\%} < e+x+y+z < 30 \text{ at\%}$.

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4. (Amended) The [I] interface module according to claim 3, [characterized in that]
wherein the following relationships apply:

Co $a = 55 - 72 \text{ at\%}$

Mn/Fe $c = 0 - 0.5$

Ni $d = 0 - 20 \text{ at\%}$

M $e = 0 - 3 \text{ at\%}$

B $y = 8 - 20 \text{ at\%}$

Si $x = 1 - 18 \text{ at\%}$

and $20 \text{ at\%} < e+x+y+z < 30 \text{ at\%}$.

5. (Amended) The [I] interface module according to claim 1 [or 2], [characterized in
that] wherein the alloy has the composition $\text{Fe}_x\text{Cu}_y\text{M}_z\text{Si}_v\text{B}_w$, with M indicating an element
from the group Nb, W, Ta, Zr, Hf, Ti, Mo, or a combination of these and $x + y + z + v + w =$
100%, with

Fe $x = 100\% - y - z - v - w$

Cu $y = 0.5 - 2 \text{ at\%}$

M $z = 1 - 6 \text{ at\%}$

Si $v = 6.5 - 18 \text{ at\%}$

B $w = 5 - 14 \text{ at\%}$

with $v + w > 18 \text{ at\%}$.

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6. (Amended) The [I] interface module according to claim 5, [characterized in that]
wherein the following relationships apply:

Cu $y = 1 \text{ at\%}$

M $z = 2 - 4 \text{ at\%}$

Si $v = 14 - 17 \text{ at\%},$

with $v + w = 20 \text{ to } 24 \text{ at\%}.$

7. (Amended) The [I] interface module according to claim 1 [or 2], [characterized in
that] wherein the alloy has the composition $\text{Fe}_x\text{Zr}_y\text{Nb}_z\text{B}_v\text{Cu}_w$, with $x + y + z + v + w = 100$
at%, with

Fe $x = 100 \text{ at\%} - y - z - v - w$

Zr $y = 2 - 5 \text{ at\%}$

Nb $z = 2 - 5 \text{ at\%}$

B $v = 5 - 9 \text{ at\%}$

Cu $w = 0.5 - 1.5 \text{ at\%}$

with $y + z > 5 \text{ at\%}$ and $y + z + v > 11 \text{ at\%}.$

8. (Amended) The [I] interface module according to claim 7, [characterized in that]
wherein the following relationships apply:

Fe $x = 83 - 86 \text{ at\%}$

Zr $y = 3 - 4 \text{ at\%}$

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Nb $z = 3 - 4 \text{ at\%}$

Cu $w = 1 \text{ at\%}$

with $y + z > 7 \text{ at\%}$ and $y + z + v > 12 \text{ to } 16 \text{ at\%}$.

9. (Amended) The [I] interface module according to claim 1 [or 2], [characterized in that] wherein the alloy has the composition $\text{Fe}_x\text{M}_y\text{B}_z\text{Cu}_w$, with M indicating an element from the group Zr, Hf, Nb and $x + y + z + w = 100 \text{ at\%}$, with

Fe $x = 100 \text{ at\%} - y - z - w$

M $y = 6 - 8 \text{ at\%}$

B $z = 3 - 9 \text{ at\%}$

Cu $w = 0 - 1.5 \text{ at\%}$.

10. (Amended) The [I] interface module according to claim 9, [characterized in that] wherein the following relationships apply:

Fe $x = 83 - 91 \text{ at\%}$

M $y = 7 \text{ at\%}$.

11. (Amended) The [I] interface module according to claim 1 [or 2], [characterized in that] wherein the alloy has the composition $(\text{Fe}_{0.98}\text{Co}_{0.02})_{90-x}\text{Zr}_7\text{B}_{2+x}\text{Cu}_1$, with $x = 0 - 3 \text{ at\%}$, with the residual alloy component Co able to be replaced by Ni with appropriate equalization.

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12. (Amended) The [I] interface module according to claim 11, [characterized in that]
wherein $x = 0$.

13. (New) The interface module according to claim 2, wherein the alloy has the
composition $\text{Co}_a(\text{Fe}_{1-c}\text{Mn}_c)_b\text{Ni}_d\text{M}_e\text{Si}_x\text{B}_y\text{C}_z$, with M indicating one or more elements from the
group Nb, Mo, Ta, Cr, W, Ge, and/or P and $a+b+d+e+x+y+z = 100$, with

Co $a = 40 - 82 \text{ at\%}$

Fe+Mn $b = 3 - 10 \text{ at\%}$

Mn/Fe $c = 0 - 1$

Ni $d = 0 - 30 \text{ at\%}$

M $e = 0 - 5 \text{ at\%}$

Si $x = 0 - 17 \text{ at\%}$

B $y = 8 - 26 \text{ at\%}$

C $z = 0 - 3 \text{ at\%}$

and $15 \text{ at\%} < e+x+y+z < 30 \text{ at\%}$.

14. (New) The interface module according to claim 2, wherein the alloy has the
composition $\text{Fe}_x\text{Cu}_y\text{M}_z\text{Si}_v\text{B}_w$, with M indicating an element from the group Nb, W, Ta, Zr, Hf,
Ti, Mo, or a combination of these and $x + y + z + v + w = 100\%$, with

Fe $x = 100\% - y - z - v - w$

Cu $y = 0.5 - 2 \text{ at\%}$

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M $z = 1 - 6 \text{ at\%}$

Si $v = 6.5 - 18 \text{ at\%}$

B $w = 5 - 14 \text{ at\%}$

with $v + w > 18 \text{ at\%}$.

15. (New) The interface module according to claim 2, wherein the alloy has the composition $\text{Fe}_x\text{Zr}_y\text{Nb}_z\text{B}_v\text{Cu}_w$, with $x + y + z + v + w = 100 \text{ at\%}$, with

Fe $x = 100 \text{ at\%} - y - z - v - w$

Zr $y = 2 - 5 \text{ at\%}$

Nb $z = 2 - 5 \text{ at\%}$

B $v = 5 - 9 \text{ at\%}$

Cu $w = 0.5 - 1.5 \text{ at\%}$

with $y + z > 5 \text{ at\%}$ and $y + z + v > 11 \text{ at\%}$.

16. (New) The interface module according to claim 2, wherein the alloy has the composition $\text{Fe}_x\text{M}_y\text{B}_z\text{Cu}_w$, with M indicating an element from the group Zr, Hf, Nb and $x + y + z + w = 100 \text{ at\%}$, with

Fe $x = 100 \text{ at\%} - y - z - w$

M $y = 6 - 8 \text{ at\%}$

B $z = 3 - 9 \text{ at\%}$

Cu $w = 0 - 1.5 \text{ at\%}$.

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17. (New) The interface module according to claim 2, wherein the alloy has the composition $(\text{Fe}_{0.98}\text{Co}_{0.02})_{90-x}\text{Zr}_7\text{B}_{2+x}\text{Cu}_1$, with $x = 0 - 3$ at%, with the residual alloy component Co able to be replaced by Ni with appropriate equalization.

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